

55. A method of increasing bioavailability of nutrients in a mammal comprising buccally administering to said mammal a composition consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* bacterium, a fructo-oligosaccharide, a mineral citrate and a supplementary enzyme, wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of a lactase, an amylase, a glucanase, and a catalase.

56. A method of increasing bioavailability of nutrients in a mammal comprising buccally administering to said mammal a composition consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* bacterium, a fructo-oligosaccharide, and a supplementary lactase.

E¹ 57. (Amended) A method of increasing bioavailability of nutrients in a mammal comprising administering to said mammal a suppository, said suppository consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* bacterium and a supplementary lactase.

58. A composition consisting essentially of a *Bacillus coagulans*, a fructo-oligosaccharide, a mineral gluconate and a supplementary lactase.

59. A composition consisting essentially of a *Bacillus coagulans*, a fructo-oligosaccharide, a mineral citrate and a supplementary lactase

61. The method of claim 51, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a dried cell mass.

62. The method of claim 51, wherein said composition is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste, or a stabilized liquid suspension.

63. The method of claim 55, wherein said bacterium is in the form of a dried cell mass.

64. The method of claim 55, wherein said composition is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste, or a stabilized liquid suspension.

E² 66. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 57, wherein said composition is in the form of a stabilized gel or paste.

67. The method of claim 51, wherein said composition is a suspension, aerosol spray, capsule, tablet, wafer, powder, or semi-solid formulation.

68. The method of claim 55, wherein said composition is a suspension, aerosol spray, capsule, tablet, wafer, powder, or semi-solid formulation.

APPLICANTS: Farmer
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69. A composition consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* and a supplementary lactase.

70. A composition consisting essentially of an isolated *Bacillus coagulans* spore and a supplementary lactase.

71. The composition of claim 69, wherein said composition comprises 200 IU of lactase.